Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A heat shield element, comprising:

a basic body formed from a strengthened ceramic material, said basic body including a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side; and

a pair of reinforcing elements~~element~~ contained within the basic body that increases the tensile strength of the heat shield element; said pair of reinforcing elements including a first and second reinforcing element taking a plate-shape form; wherein a surface of the respective first and second reinforcing element is respectively arranged in a parallel alignment with and at a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the basic body.~~,~~

13. (previously presented) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reinforcing element is formed from a ceramic composite material.

14-20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material

22. (currently amended) A combustion chamber, comprising:

an annular combustion chamber wall having an inner surface;

a plurality of combustors arranged circumferentially through the combustion chamber wall; and

a plurality of heat shield elements arranged on the inner surface to form an inner lining comprising a body formed from a ceramic material, said body including a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side; and a pair of reinforcing ~~element~~elements contained within the body that has a greater tensile strength that the tensile strength of the heat shield element, said pair of reinforcement elements including a first and second reinforcement element taking a plate-shaped form, wherein a surface of the respective first and second reinforcement element is respectively arranged in a parallel alignment with and at a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the body.

23. (previously presented) The combustion chamber as claimed in claim 22, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material.

24. (currently amended) An axial flow gas turbine engine arranged about a central axis, comprising:

a rotor rotationally mounted about the central axis of the engine;

an intake housing that intakes air;

a compressor section that compresses the intake air; and

an annular combustion chamber that accepts the compressed air, introduces a fuel and combusts the fuel and compressed air to provide a hot working fluid wherein the combustion chamber comprises:

an annular combustion chamber wall having an inner surface,

a plurality of combustors arranged circumferentially through the combustion chamber wall, and

a plurality of heat shield elements arranged on the inner surface to form an inner lining comprising a body formed from a ceramic material, said body including a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side; and a pair of reinforcing ~~element~~elements contained within the body that has a greater tensile strength than the tensile strength of the heat shield element, said pair of reinforcing elements including a first and second reinforcing element taking a plate-shape form; wherein a surface of the respective first and second reinforcing element is respectively arranged in a parallel arrangement with and at a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the body.

25. (previously presented) The axial flow gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 24, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material.

26. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein a working medium is incident on the first side of the basic body, such that a temperature of the first side is greater than a temperature of the second side.

27. (new) The combustion chamber as claimed in claim 22, wherein a working medium is incident to the combustion chamber and against the first side of the body, such that a temperature of the first side is greater than a temperature of the second side.

28. (new) The axial flow gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 24, wherein a working medium is incident to the combustion chamber and against the first side of the body, such that a temperature of the first side is greater than a temperature of the second side.

29. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reinforcing elements are formed from an oxide-ceramic material having an Al_2O_3 proportion of at least 60% by weight.

30. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 26, wherein the working medium is incident on the first side at a temperature in a range of 1200-1500 °C.